



Mohegans herald Wigwam Festival’s return to Shantok



Taking part in the Wigwam Festival's Grand Entry at Shantok, Village of Uncas, on Aug. 16 are, from left, Mohegan Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown, Mohegan Council of Elders Chairman Gay Story Hamilton, Council of Elders Treasurer Austin Fish and Council of Elders Vice Chairman Mary Rubino.

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

The joy of returning home, felt by all Mohegans, marked this year's Wigwam Festival at Shantok, Village of Uncas. Heat, humidity and showers could not dampen the enthusiasm with which Tribal members welcomed the Wigwam back to their ancient homeland on Aug. 16 and 17. Shantok is the home the Mohegans founded when they left the east bank of the Thames River in about 1635 and settled on this land that was part of the traditional hunting grounds of Sachem Uncas' father. The land has great significance to the Tribe.

This year's Wigwam — with the theme “Return to Shantok, Where Mohegans Gather” — was a somewhat scaled-down event compared to recent years. Mohegan Tribal member Bruce Bozsum “Two Dogs,” the Wigwam Director and Manager of the Tribe’s Cultural and Community Programs, said the decision to have the Wigwam at Shantok came about because the Council of Elders, the Tribal Council and the Wigwam Committee wanted to limit costs and overhead this year. “The Wigwam was a great success, in part, because it felt right to be back home at Shantok,”

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The Historic Wigwam Festival: Back to the Trees

By Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel
Mohegan Tribal Historian

This year, the Wigwam Festival was held at Shantok, sight of the sacred red cedars that grow from the spirits of our Mohegan ancestors. The Wigwam, or Thanksgiving for the Corn Harvest, has always been connected to the trees. Mohegan Medicine Woman Gladys Tantaquidgeon remembers the Fair Tree, a giant chestnut atop Mohegan Hill where Mohegans gathered for the annual Thanksgiving for the Corn Harvest since ancient times. Before the arrival of the Europeans, Mohegans held Thanksgivings throughout the year in gratitude to the Creator for the

earth’s many gifts. Most significant was this Wigwam Festival or “Corn Thanksgiving,” at which tribespeople annually reconnected with Mundu, the Creator and Great Mystery. They celebrated corn because it is the sustainer of life and spirit. Gladys Tantaquidgeon tells us that “In very early times, there was a fair tree near where the Mohegan Church now stands, and the Green Corn Festival was held there.” At the time of the breakup of the Mohegan Reservation in the mid-19th century, Emma Baker, who was then the Mohegan Medicine Woman, revitalized the Corn Festival



and located it at Mohegan Church. There, it became known as the “Wigwam.” She incorporated the Wigwam’s restoration into the goals of the Mohegan Church Ladies’ Sewing Society in 1860. By physically linking this festival to the Mohegan Church in the year before the Mohegan Reservation began to break up, she focused Tribal solidarity around the only post-reservation tribally-owned land parcels. Assisting Emma Baker in the Wigwam-related activities of the Church Ladies Sewing

See Historic Wigwam Festival on page 6

The event has always featured corn as its centerpiece, according to ancient custom.



EDITORIAL

The scope of tribal sovereignty continues to be diminished

Rhode Island’s hostile police action against the leadership of the Narragansett Tribe caused an outcry by Indian leaders throughout the nation. The tribe had opened a tax-free smoke shop that the state wanted closed. Rather than negotiating with the Tribe on a government-to-government basis, the Rhode Island State Police on July 14 stormed onto tribal land with police dogs and seized the tobacco products. Rhode Island’s aggressive state police action against the Narragansett Tribe once again dramatically raises questions about the scope of tribal sovereignty.

Well before this event occurred, the word “sovereignty” would inevitably enter conversations with tribal leaders when the topic shifted to tribal authority. Why is this so? First of all, what does sovereignty mean and why is it so important to tribal leaders?

A basic understanding of the early history of European exploration and colonization sheds light on the backdrop of tribal rights. Prior to European occupation of the Western Hemisphere, Native American tribes exercised governmental control over the lands they occupied. While there were certainly territorial disputes with other tribes, each tribe generally exercised dominion over the areas they considered to be their lands.

This tribal territorial control changed drastically with the coming of European diseases, colonization and military technology. The diseases the first European explorers brought with them severely reduced the Native population. The Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere had no immunity to ward off these new illnesses. As a consequence, when shiploads of European colonists arrived later on the Eastern Seaboard, because of the spread of these epidemics and resulting deaths of vast numbers of the Native peoples, large areas appeared to be unoccupied and open for European occupation. The land appeared free for the taking. Although many tribes were severely weakened, other tribes still retained the strength to resist European encroachment. As a consequence, throughout this period, European governments dealt with tribes that had the power to resist colonization as foreign governments. Treatment as a government meant you were sovereign. When the United States was created in 1789, the President and the Congress continued to deal with Indian tribes as separate governments. Indian tribes were either to be militarily conquered or to be bargained with through treaties by the United States. The U.S. Constitution allows for treaties only with foreign governments. Congress recognized Indian tribes as for-

eign governments when it chose to enter into treaties with them. Although the treaties recognized tribal sovereignty, they were so one-sided in favor of the United States that they worked to erode the original full scope of tribal sovereignty. The United States Supreme Court under Chief Justice Marshall, in a series of cases in the 1820s characterized as the “Marshall trilogy,” recognized Indian tribes as “domestic-dependent sovereigns.” These cases — while supporting the legality of Tribes as separate sovereigns — also diminished the scope of that sovereignty. For the next 170 years of the history of the United States, the “Marshall trilogy” of cases were followed by the Supreme Court. Within the last decade, the United States Supreme Court has begun to move away from the doctrine of sovereignty recognized in the “Marshall trilogy” of cases. In these recent decisions, the court has been diminishing the scope of tribal sovereignty. This has raised serious concern with tribal leadership. Tribal leaders are now actively working to have legislation enacted in Congress that would restore the jurisdictional sovereignty that the Supreme Court has diminished. The treatment of tribes as governments by the United States goes to the core of tribal existence — without it tribes would simply be another ethnic minority. Possession of their tribal lands and governmental status as the original inhabitants of what is now the United States is what drives tribal leaders’ continued struggle for sovereignty.

Tribal leaders are now actively working to have legislation enacted in Congress that would restore the jurisdictional sovereignty that the Supreme Court has diminished.

Combating Fetal Alcohol Syndrome



Mohegan Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown, left, accepted a leadership award from the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome from U.S. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., in Washington, D.C., in June. Chairman Brown was honored for his commitment to the prevention of alcohol-related birth defects. The Mohegan Tribe recently helped to fund the printing of literature on alcohol-related birth defects, which was translated in Native languages and distributed to rural areas where Native American families live.

Mission Statement

Ni Ya Yo is a sovereign messenger which provides an official Tribal government perspective on issues and events pertaining to the Mohegan Tribe and Indian Country as a whole.

Ni Ya Yo

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National Museum of the American Indian names floor in honor of the Mohegan Tribe

By Nancy Trimble

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The entire third floor of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian will be named in honor of the Mohegan Tribe. The five-floor building, which is under construction on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., is scheduled to open in September of 2004.

The museum's opening will mark the first time in the history of the United States that a place in the nation's capital is dedicated to Native American culture. The museum will provide a place for educating the public about Native Americans and a place for Native Americans to demonstrate their cultures to the United States and the world.

Mohegan Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown, a member of the museum's Board of Trustees as well as its Advisory Board, said, "There will be no greater way for Indian people to tell their story to America and the world than through this monument to learning next to the United States Capitol. We are very proud to join this project."

The Mohegan Tribe is contributing \$10 million to the museum as are the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation of Connecticut and the Oneida Tribe of New York. The museum's fourth floor will be named in honor of the Oneida Tribe, and the large central rotunda on the first floor will be named in honor of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

The estimate for the museum's construction, exhibitions and programs is \$219 million. One-third of the construction costs will come from private contributions and the other two-thirds will be paid out of federal appropriations.

Contemporary Native Americans

A significant portion of the Mohegan floor will be dedicated to the contemporary lives of Native peoples. The largest gallery on the third floor will have a permanent exhibit called “Our Lives.” The exhibit will show the diversity of modern American Indians living in a variety of areas and coming from different socio-economic backgrounds. The theme of the gallery will be Native identity and

ideas. The exhibition will feature super-sized graphics and will ask the question, "Who are you?" The answers will be found through audio, pictures and panels.

Also on the third floor will be a changing exhibit of contemporary Native American art. The artwork of George Morrison, an abstract expressionist painter, and Allan Houser,



BY I LEONDA I EVCHIK/NIMAI



WATERCOLOR RENDERING BY ELIZABETH DAY

The design for the National Museum of the American Indian is an abstraction of a natural rock formation sculpted over time by wind and water. The museum is to open on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in September of 2004.

sculptor of abstract Indian subjects, will be the first exhibit in this space.

The floor will include a resource center with an interactive learning center, library, classroom, educational workshop space and a database. Visitors to the third floor also will have the opportunity to take an in-depth look at the museum's collections of such objects as baskets, beadwork and pottery.

Five years to build

The groundbreaking ceremony for the National Museum of the American Indian was held on Sept. 28, 1999. Five years later, the Smithsonian will open its new building on the National Mall at Fourth Street and Independence Avenue on a 4.25-acre site between the National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol.

The 260,000-square-foot building covers more than a quarter of the site; the rest of the grounds will feature natural habitats indige-

nous to this Southeastern region, including a hardwood forest, freshwater wetlands, a riverine landscape and meadows.

The building's exterior, made of dolomitic limestone, will have the appearance of a stratified stone mass that has been carved by wind and water over the centuries. The second most prevalent building material is double-insulated glass panels.

The architectural design of the museum respects the four cardinal directions that are part of Indian culture: North, South, East and West.

Delicate crystal prisms, installed facing true south, will catch the sun's rays and reflect a spectacular light spectrum onto the interior of the central rotunda. This light "show" will change every day, and the color spectrum will animate the space and serve as one of the most visible design elements relating to the sun and light.

The museum will house a 300-seat theater, a 120-seat outdoor performance space, three 49-seat conference rooms, two 50-seat education workshops and three permanent exhibition galleries that will display approximately 1,000 to 2,000 objects from a collection of more than 800,000 pieces.

The core objects of the museum will come from the collection of George Gustav Heye, who collected objects from throughout North and South America over a 54-year period, beginning in 1903. He was the founder of the Heye Foundation's Museum of the American Indian in New York City, which opened in 1922. This collection, considered the most comprehensive collection of Native American materials in the world, consists of 800,000 objects and 86,000 photographic images. 🍁

Tribal Elders Honored



PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

Mohegan Council of Elders Chairman Gay Story Hamilton presents proclamations from the Smithsonian Institution to Ernest Gilman "Kiwa," center, and Laurence Schultz "Red Moon" in honor of their many years of service to the Tribe. The presentation was made at Mohegan Sun's Longhouse on July 21 during a dinner held for the pair, who retired from the Mohegan Council of Elders earlier this year. The certificates state that their names will be engraved on the Honor Wall at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, which is now under construction in Washington, D.C.



Austin Fish and Bill Andrews elected to Council of Elders

By Nancy Trimble

Just two days after they won election to fill vacant seats on the Mohegan Council of Elders, Austin Fish and Bill Andrews took the oath of office and began their new jobs.

Tribal leaders, friends and family gathered to watch Chief Ralph Sturges deliver the oath during a brief swearing-in ceremony in the Tribal meeting room on May 12. Councilors Fish and Andrews pledged to support the Mohegan people and the Mohegan Constitution and to serve on the Council of Elders to the best of their ability.

Councilors Fish and Andrews fill the seats left vacant by the recent resignations of Ernest W. Gilman “Kiwa” and Laurence T. Schultz “Red Moon,” who stepped down from their seats for health reasons.

Councilors Fish and Andrews were elected to serve for the remaining year and a half of the five-year terms, which expire in October 2004. Councilor Fish holds a masters degree in



PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

Mohegan Chief Ralph Sturges administers the oath of office to Austin Fish, center, and Bill Andrews, the new members of the Mohegan Council of Elders.

business administration from the University of New Haven and a bachelor's degree from Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. He has approximately 30 years of computer applications experience. He served in the U.S. Air Force where he attained the rank of captain. He has served as Chairman of the Mohegan Constitution Revision Commission. Councilor Andrews holds an associate of arts

degree from Southwestern College in Chula Vista, Calif., where he graduated summa cum laude. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, worked for American Airlines as a flight operations agent and has held various other positions. He has over 30 years of experience participating in Native American cultures of the Southwest. He has served as a member of the Constitution Revision Commission and is a flute teacher for the Cultural and Community Programs Department. The seven-member Council of Elders oversees cultural, spiritual and judicial issues for the Tribe. Also serving on the Council of Elders are Chairman Gay Story Hamilton, Vice Chairman Mary Rubino, Secretary Bill Ihloff and Councilor John Henry Clark. On July 31 Council of Elders Treasurer Richard S. Chapman became the third member of the Council to resign for health reasons. An election to fill his seat is scheduled to be held in September. Austin Fish has been appointed Council of Elders Treasurer. ✂

Tribe funds new program for students to learn English in Montville school system

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

The Mohegan Tribe and employees of the Mohegan Sun Human Resources Department are providing assistance to the Montville School District's English as a Second Language Program.

“The Tribe and the town of Montville have engaged in a substantial collaborative effort to help one another in this language project,” said Mohegan Tribal Vice Chairman Peter Schultz.

“The process is working well and could be used as a model for other communities,” he said.

According to Vice Chairman Schultz, 62 students currently enrolled in the Montville school system have been classified as “English language learners.” Of those students, 26 are of Hispanic origin, 24 are Chinese, three are Egyptian, three are Filipino, two are Russian, two are Vietnamese, one is Haitian/Creole and one is Punjabi. Some of those youngsters are children of Mohegan Sun employees.

Montville school officials work

closely with the Mohegan Sun Human Resources Department, whose staff speaks many languages and serves as a resource for the school district. The employees have translated report cards, medical forms, three-way phone calls, handbooks and school schedules.

School officials also have forged a positive working relationship with the Tribal Council, Vice Chairman Schultz said. The Tribe has funded the printing of informational brochures, which Human Resources employees have translated.

Montville's teachers have measured the progress of the 62 students through academic evaluations, informal assessments and individual reading inventories by specialists. Early evaluations indicate that all students are doing very well, Vice Chairman Schultz said.

President Bush's “No Child Left Behind” educational initiative includes an individually administered language assessment test for all students in kindergarten through grade 12 who are enrolled in an English as a Second Language Program. ✂



PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

Mohegan Tribal Vice Chairman Peter Schultz



PHOTO BY JONATHAN S. HAMILTON

Helping the Community

During a ceremony at Montville's Wastewater Treatment Facility in May, Mohegan Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown, right, accepts a plaque from Montville Mayor Howard R. (Russ) Beetham in recognition of the Tribe's commitment to improve the town's sanitation system. The plaque reads: “Montville Water Pollution Control Authority and the Montville Town Council proudly recognize the Mohegan Tribe and Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority in appreciation for their contributions to the Montville Water Pollution Control System improvements.”

For Clean Air



PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

The Tribe presents a check for \$28,000 to the Norwich School District at the Kelly Middle School in April. The money is for a larger fuel tank and ultra-low-sulfur diesel to reduce pollution from the town's fleet of school buses. From left, are: Norwich Mayor Arthur Lathrop, Corresponding Secretary/Mohegan Tribal Councilor Christine Murtha “Micimee,” Dr. Norman Richards, Administrator of the Mohegan Environmental Protection Department; Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown; and School District Superintendent Dr. Michael Frechette.

Exhibit honors Medicine Woman Gladys Tantaquidgeon

By Bill Gucfa

A new display entitled “Gladys Tantaquidgeon’s Life Trail: A 104th Birthday Tribute Exhibit” was recently installed at the Winter Entrance of Mohegan Sun’s Casino of the Earth.

The Mohegan Medicine Woman celebrated her birthday on June 15. The exhibit honors her and thanks her for all she has accomplished, according to Mohegan Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel, great niece of the Medicine Woman.

Prepared by the Mohegan Historic Preservation Department, the exhibit reflects the life and lessons of Tantaquidgeon, presenting a collage of her years of “spreading good medicine.”

Sonalysts Studios in Waterford, Conn., assembled the exhibit, which includes six panels depicting Tantaquidgeon’s life from 1899 to the present. Visitors are guided

through the exhibit by the ancient Trail of Life design and easy-to-read text.

Best known for her work in herbal medicine, Tantaquidgeon chronicled those traditions in her book “Folk Medicine of the Delaware and Related Algonkian Indians.” During much of the 1920s and



Gladys Tantaquidgeon



PHOTOS BY BILL GUCFA

Mohegan Sun patrons view “Gladys Tantaquidgeon’s Life Trail: A 104th Birthday Tribute Exhibit” now on display at the Winter Entrance of the Casino of the Earth. The Mohegan Medicine Woman, who turned 104 on June 15, has spent her life celebrating Mohegan culture.

1930s, she expanded her Mohegan pharmacopeia by researching herbal medicine among other tribes of the East Coast.

During the 1920s she also studied anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and conducted anthropological field work until 1934. Her academic and Tribal achievements have

been honored by both the University of Connecticut and Yale University, from which she holds honorary doctorates.

In 1934, Tantaquidgeon joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a social worker to spread her good medicine among the Lakota Sioux in South Dakota. Later she

worked for the newly formed Indian Arts and Crafts Board, which bolstered Indian economies through the revival and marketing of authentic Indian art.

When her father became ill, she returned home to Uncasville, Conn., in 1947, ending her career with the federal government. After his death in 1949, she accepted a job at the women’s prison in Niantic, Conn., where she worked in the library, enriching the lives of the inmates.

By the 1960s, her work shifted to the full-time operation of the Tantaquidgeon Museum in Uncasville, where thousands of school children came in busloads each year. The museum was built in 1931 by her brother Harold and their father John to display many Mohegan treasures “so that not

only our own people could enjoy them but others as well,” Tantaquidgeon wrote. She worked at the museum through the 1990s.

She also continued doing research so that the Mohegan Tribe could receive federal recognition in 1994.

She served intermittently on the Mohegan Tribal Council throughout the 20th century and most recently from 1970 to 1984, when she stepped down as Vice Chair.

Along with stories of the annual Wigwam Festivals, the exhibit tells of the women who played important roles in Tantaquidgeon’s life: storyteller Fidelia Fielding “Jeets Bodernash” (Flying Bird), who was the last speaker of the Mohegan Pequot dialect; Medicine Woman and teacher Emma Baker, who was Tantaquidgeon’s great aunt; Lydia Fielding, her maternal grandmother and Mercy Ann Nonesuch Mathews, a Nehantic Indian who married a Mohegan.

Antique photographs in the exhibit show these women as well as Tantaquidgeon at various stages in her life. One photo shows her skinning a buffalo on the Lakota Reservation in the late 1930s.

The exhibit about this remarkable Medicine Woman’s life, also tells the story of a people who persevered to save their Tribe, traditions and land. ✂

‘The Mark of Uncas’ documentary wins an Emmy award

The documentary film “The Mark of Uncas” won an Emmy award in the category of Outstanding Target Audience Program. Mohegan Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel and film producer Ken Simon accepted the Emmy during the awards ceremony of the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in May.

Tantaquidgeon Zobel was recognized for the film’s historic content and Simon for his role as executive producer and director.

The hour-long documentary tells the myth, life and legacy of Uncas, who was Mohegan Sachem — head chief — from 1635 to 1683.

Uncas is renowned from James Fenimore Cooper’s 1826 novel “The Last of the Mohicans” and its many movie adaptations. The real Uncas, who lived from 1598 to 1683, left an indelible mark on the history of Southern New England by allying with the English to ensure his people’s survival.



PHOTO BY FRANK MONKIEWICZ

Film producer Ken Simon and Mohegan Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel with their Emmy statues.

Viewed as power hungry by some and as a far-sighted diplomat by others, Uncas was a major figure in America at that time.

“The film does not shy away from the controversial nature of Uncas’ decisions,” said Simon. “The film is based on Mohegan oral tradition, and it was great to be able to take

that history and put it in a contemporary medium. We look at the life and legacy of Uncas and take off from there to tell the story of the Tribe.”

Inuit actor and artist Eric Schweig, who played the fictional Uncas in the 1992 film version of “The Last of the Mohicans,” narrates the film. Expert commentators include Russell Means, an Oglala Lakota who played Uncas’ father in the 1992 movie; Abenaki author Joseph Bruchac; American Indian Law Center Director Sam Deloria of the Standing Rock Sioux; the Smithsonian Institution’s Karen Cooper of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma; Mohegan descendants of Uncas, members of neighboring tribes and residents of Uncasville, Conn. The production features numerous historic sites from New England to England.

You can buy “The Mark of Uncas” video at the Trading Cove store in Mohegan Sun, or order it by calling the store at 1-860-862-8268.



Historic Wigwam Festival

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Society were Nettie Fowler and Gladys Tantaquidgeon, the current Mohegan Medicine Woman. Tantaquidgeon recalls the design of that Wigwam structure as follows:

“The building of the brush arbor required quite a lot of hours of hard labor. Eight or ten men cut the poles and this brush arbor was fifty or sixty feet square. This brush arbor was built in our church yard. The poles were set eight or ten feet apart and they were crotched. Grey birch saplings were set across the top and woven across the sides so that it was completely enclosed. There was an entrance towards the east and there was an entrance towards the west close to the cook house. East and west doors had to do with early traditions. Tables were arranged inside and the festival was held Wednesday and Thursday and many visitors appeared for the mid-day meal of clam chowder, oyster stew, succotash and the famous traveling food – yokeag [made from dried, parched corn, which has been ground finely with a mortar and pestle] made in mortars of Pepperidge wood. Yokeag was used by hunters and warriors. It was light to carry and nourishing. We have been told that a small quantity was placed in a deerskin sack to be placed at the waist of the warrior or hunter and with water served as a meal.”

Gladys Tantaquidgeon also remembers Emma Baker’s dream vision, which revitalized the Wigwam in the mid-19th century:

“A Mohegan woman had a dream in which the spirit of her mother appeared and told her to tell the people to continue with their plans for the annual ‘Wigwam’ or ‘Green Corn Festival.’ The message inspired the people, and with renewed courage they set to work determined to carry out the old custom, that it might please the spirits of the departed ones. The affair was a great success.”

The origins of the name for the Wigwam event reflect its purpose. The word “Wigwomun” or “Wigwam” means “Come in the house” or “Welcome.” Gladys Tantaquidgeon recalls her childhood memories of the Wigwam Festival as follows:

“Some of our elders were basket makers, wood carvers and one or two were doing ... some bead work. They didn’t think of that in terms of ‘Mohegan Indian Cultural Survival.’ That was just a part of everyday life. At the east end there would be one of our Mohegan men in his Indian clothes. He would be there

to greet people. In early times, [it was] Chief Occum, Lemuel Fielding, and indoors [was] the person who would take the entrance fee, which was fifteen cents. There were different tables arranged. First there was the table with penny candy and one of the candies



many of us liked was a round coconut candy and one [was] chocolate. The next table was all baked goods, all sorts of cakes, pies. In the middle of the Wigwam was what they called the fancy table and the items women made during the year. You could buy a nice gingham apron. There were quite a few baskets made by our Indian men, cooking utensils such as spoons and ladles, and one of our women did some beaded purses in floral designs. The more important tables were where they served the good food. One table served ice cream and some liked it with yokeag. On the corner was the fortune teller. She read your palm. She was Jeanette Fielding, but if she didn’t like the person she would not read their palm. She had practiced palmistry for a great many years. She would read your palm for fifteen or twenty cents and everyone said that she was very good. Out in the cook house, Aunt Nettie [Fowler]



and Chief Matahga [Burrill H. Fielding] with other Mohegans and some of our neighbors would get the corn husked, peel potatoes and shell beans. This was an all-day affair for them through day and evening.”

Upon the passing of Chief Matahga in 1952, Tribal member Harriet Strickland received the following letter from Clara Rogers, a friend of the Tribe, reminiscent of his critical role at the Wigwam:

“... I thought, ‘The passing of a Warrior’ – Burrill H Fielding – Bokie!’ Bokie supervised the building of the Wigwam – I could smell the drying birch leaves. Bokie helped to pound yokeag with the old mortar and pestle in the back yard. He rang the Church bell, rousing the gang to get up and get to work. If this didn’t get quick enough results, I could hear him coming down the upstairs hall in Nana [Tanta]Quidgeon’s house knocking on all the doors: ‘Come on! Come on! Time to get to work!’ He made the succotash and clam chowder at the Wigwam, standing over a black stove on a hot August day ...”

The event has always featured corn as its centerpiece, according to ancient custom. Until the mid-20th century, real Mohegan succotash was served and dessert consisted of ice cream topped with yokeag. Mohegan-



PHOTO BY BILL GUCCA

Mohegan Art

By Melissa Tantaquidgeon
Mohegan Tribal Historian

Yokeag — the Native word for parched corn — was once the staple side dish from the Native root word for corn. Made of parched, ground corn, it creates a pancake known as yokeag. In modern term “johnnyca” (Johnny Cake). According to Mohegan tradition, the meal was sifted in maple leaves. The corn particles were known as “grudgeons.” The meal was sprinkled on top of the wigwam, or Green Corn Festival.

Wigwam Festival 2003



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MOHEGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

made corn cob dolls and corn husk dolls were also sold, and children played the game of “ta-pa-neekan,” using a stick with bits of hollowed, dried corn cob tied in a row and a piece of fur at the end. The goal of the game is to catch as many pieces of corn as possible or better yet to catch the fur as it is worth the most points.

Alongside corn, Mohegans traditionally grow squash and beans. These three plants are referred to as the “Three Sisters” as they nurture one another when they are grown together. Similar Indian festivals, known as pow wows, derive their name from the Narragansett word “pauwaues,” meaning “shaman” or “the one who dreams.”

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the Wigwam moved around a bit due to limited space and parking at the Mohegan Church. Tribal meetings are no longer held there for the same reason. So it is that this important and enduring Mohegan festival has found its way to Shantok, the ancient Mohegan village and home of our most sacred trees. ✂

Artifact

on Zobel
an

word meaning traveling food or journey food supply of Mohegan hunters. “Oke” comes word for land.
and flint corn, yokeag was mixed with water to as journey cake, hence the corruption to the ke,” which is still a popular New England dish. an elder Ruth Tantaquidgeon, this yokeag/corn e-rimmed sieves, like the one shown on the that were too large to filter through were They made a sweet, nutty-flavored snack that ice cream served at the annual Mohegan Wig- festival, through the early 20th century. ✂



Aztec Fire Dancer Javier Alarcon, left, delighted crowds at the Mohegan Wigwam Festival with his dramatic regalia and expressive dancing. Mystic River, the host drumming group, performed with five other drum groups.



PHOTOS BY BILL GUCCA

Dance competitors dazzle the Wigwam audiences with their colorful regalia.

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Bozsum said. “The 52 volunteers worked hard so the needs of all the people were met.”

This year, the committee invited fewer vendors and entertainers. The number and size of the tents were also reduced. The main tent was 100 feet shorter than in recent years when the Wigwam was a three-day event held in a large field behind St. Bernard High School in Uncasville.

The Wigwam may have been smaller but it still drew an estimated 10,000 visitors, who were enthralled by the Native arts and crafts, foods, regalia, storytelling, flute playing, drumming and dancing competition.

The pageantry of the grand entry, led by the Mohegan Honor Guard, began at noon on both days. Tribal leaders, including Chief Ralph Sturges, Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown and Council of Elders Chairman Gay Story Hamilton along with members of the Council of Elders and the Tribal Council entered the tent. Following were large contingents of dance competitors from across Indian Country who were dressed in exquisite regalia. Five drumming groups took turns playing the entry song, creating a beckoning beat that filled Shantok.

Entertaining the crowds on both days were Mohegan storytellers Sister Bette-Jean Coderre and Shane Long, Schaghticoke storyteller Trudie Lamb Richmond, Cheyenne flutist

Joseph Firecrow, Pequot-Ojibwe folk singers Laughing Woman and Eagle Wing, and Aztec Fire Dancer Javier Alarcon. Alarcon danced beautifully, especially in his portrayal of a deer being hunted.

Dr. Jeffrey Bendremer, Mohegan Historic Preservation Department Archaeologist, and Elaine Thomas, Archaeological Research Assistant, led tours of Shantok sites where recent excavations have turned up exciting artifact discoveries.

This year more than 275 dancers representing 200 tribes competed for \$42,000 in prize money. Mohegan dance competitors finished near the top in several categories. Kattie Cramer, 13, came in second in the Teen Women Eastern Blanket Dance Division and Kayla Christiano, 13, finished fourth in the Teen Women Jingle Dance Division.

Jacob Bozsum, 14, placed third in the Teen Men Eastern War Dance Division and Anthony Bozsum, 13, placed fourth in that division. Cevan

Long, 8, also took a third place in the Junior Boys Eastern War Dance Division.

In the art competition, Tribal members Kenny Strickland, Kim Fister and Sharon Maynard finished first, second and third, respectively in the Hand Woven Basket Category.

Mohegan artist Dan Kerwin won first place in the Painting Division. Fister also took a second place for her beadwork/quillwork and Strickland took a third place for creative excellence for the cross-stitch. ✂

✂

“The Wigwam was a great success, in part, because it felt right to be back home at Shantok.”

✂

— Bruce Bozsum “Two Dogs”

National Indian Gaming Association honors Chairman Brown for lifetime of achievement

For exemplary service in demonstrating a lifetime of achievement and commitment to Indian gaming, Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown and Lynn Valbuena, former Chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians of California, received the prestigious 2003 John Kieffer Award from the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA).

The award was presented on Aug. 18 during the NIGA mid-year meeting of Tribal leaders at the Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in Prior Lake, Minn.

NIGA Chairman Ernie L. Stevens Jr. said, “Chairman Brown has dedicated his life to making lives better for his tribe and the surrounding community. He is a former police officer who has given much to serve American citizens and protect lives. Through the sacrifices he has made to help both his Tribe and Indian people across the nation, Chairman Brown has proven many times over that anything is possible with hard work and dedication to a cause. He is one of NIGA’s most trusted and hardest working tribal leaders, and we are a stronger association with his wise counsel and boundless energy,” Stevens said.

Accepting the award, Chairman Brown said,

“It is a true honor to be thought of for such an award by my peers in Indian Country. I know that the more people understand what we are doing the stronger we will be. It is my hope that through gaming and other forms of economic development, we can truly make a difference in the lives of people so long neglected. I accept this award on behalf of all Mohegans.”

Chairman Brown has been at the forefront of NIGA’s effort to educate the American public about the truth concerning Indian gaming. As a former law enforcement officer and chairman of the Justice Committee of the United South and Eastern Tribes, he brought instant credibility and integrity to this role, Stevens noted.

Chairman Brown often represents Indian Country at meetings with state and congressional leaders and has had the opportunity to meet and speak with three U.S. presidents regarding the difficult issues facing America’s indigenous people.

Chairman Brown currently serves as Co-Chair of the NIGA Tribal Leaders Public Relations Policy Committee and is on the Board of Trustees for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and numerous civic and charitable boards.



PHOTO BY CHUCK BUNNELL

Mohegan Tribal Chairman Mark F. Brown and Lynn Valbuena, former Chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians of California, receive the National Indian Gaming Association’s 2003 John Kieffer Award, presented to tribal leaders who have demonstrated a lifetime of achievement and commitment to Indian gaming.

“Lynn Valbuena is also much deserving of the John Kieffer Award,” Stevens said. “Her strong commitment to gaming issues — all Indian issues — is second to none. Lynn is one of the hardest working people I know. She is one of NIGA’s longest serving board members.”

The award is named in honor of the late John Kieffer, of the Spokane Tribe, who was a selfless and dedicated member of the NIGA Executive Committee from 1993 to 1999. ✂

New secrets revealed in revised guide to Mohegan Sun

The Mohegan Tribe recently published a revised edition of the “Secret Guide,” which invites Mohegan Sun visitors “to learn our ancient ways by experiencing our stories and symbols.”

The booklet explains the hidden meaning contained in the resort’s design elements, which were inspired by Mohegan tradition and culture. The new guide includes the Casino of the Sky and the Mohegan Sun Hotel as well as the Casino of the Earth, the subject of the original “Secret Guide,” which was published in 1998.

Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel served as Editor-in-Chief of the project and wrote most of the guide’s new sections.

“With the completion of Project Sunburst expansion of Mohegan Sun, we were able to tell not only the story of the Mohegan Tribe’s past but also reference elements of our tradition that speak to the future, such as the stars and planets — those things that are timeless,” Tantaquidgeon Zobel said.

The Tribal government’s Art Department designed the new guide under the direction of Publisher Anita Fowler, the Tribe’s Director of Arts and Little People. Tribal photographer

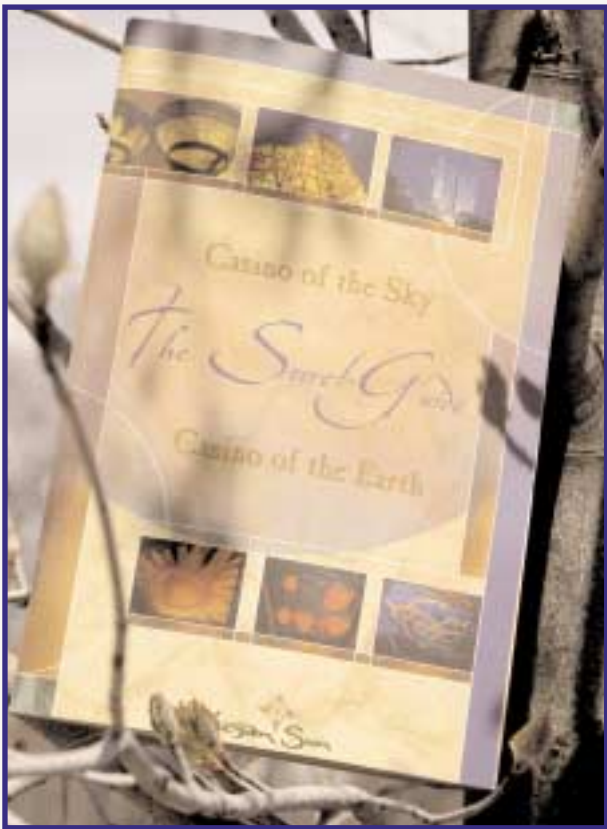


PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

Bill Gucca contributed many of the photos for the guide.

Other Mohegan Tribal members who worked on the project include Jennifer Harris, Mohegan Sun’s Public Relations Director, and Vimala Greene, Mohegan Sun’s Communications Manager. Sandra Eichelberg, the

Tribe’s Information Coordinator, wrote many sections of the original guide, which are included in the revised guide.

The booklet contains numerous photographs and maps, and it overflows with explanations of the design elements. Walking around the resort while armed with the guide is much like going on a museum tour. Informed visitors will never look at Mohegan Sun the same way again.

“Here beside the Thames River, the Mohegans have lived for centuries. During your stay, we invite you to learn our ancient ways by experiencing our stories and symbols,” the guide says.

The Sky Casino portion of the guide starts with the Tree of Life, which connects the Earth and Sky Casinos. The reader discovers, “Our ancestors form our roots, our living Tribe is the trunk, and our grandchildren are the buds of our future.”

Guests at the Mohegan Sun Hotel and the Mohegan Sun Convention Center receive complimentary copies of the “Secret Guide.” The guide is offered for sale for \$4.95 in the Trading Cove store at Mohegan Sun.



“Our ancestors form our roots, our living Tribe is the trunk, and our grandchildren are the buds of our future.”

— “Secret Guide”



PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

Members of the Mohegan Veterans Association perform the posting of colors for closing ceremonies of the National Tribal Employment Rights Convention at the Mohegan Sun Convention Center. From left, are: Tribal members Pat Mugford, Joe Gray, John Henry Clark, Ralph Engelgau and Robert Baker.



PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

U.S. Rep. John Larson of Connecticut praises the Mohegan Tribe for bringing employment opportunities to the state.



PHOTO BY DEBRA MAXEINER

Tex Hall, President of the National Congress of American Indians, gives the keynote address at the closing ceremonies and discusses protecting tribal sovereignty.

Mohegan hosts Tribal Employment Rights Convention

The National Tribal Employment Rights Convention brought approximately 178 representatives of 55 tribal nations throughout the United States to the Mohegan Sun Convention Center from June 29 to July 1.

The Mohegan Tribe hosted the convention, which marked the 26th anniversary of the Tribal Employment Rights Organization (TERO). TERO enforces Indian preference in hiring and assists in contract awarding to qualified Native-owned companies.

At the opening ceremonies, Mohegan Vice Chairman Peter Schultz and Ken Janus, the Tribe's Tero Compliance Officer, welcomed guests. Mohegan Pipe Carrier Bruce Bozsum "Two Dogs" gave a blessing and the Tribal dancers and drummers performed.

Vice Chairman Schultz gave the keynote address at the convention's first general assembly. He discussed the importance of creating clear and agreeable relations with the neighboring communities that surround a tribe's economic enterprises.

Vice Chairman Schultz emphasized the value of looking out for the greater good of

the community and venturing out to help with projects that benefit not only the tribe, but those who have lived in the community with the tribe for so many years.

After he spoke, Vice Chairman Schultz received an honoring blanket for his work and hospitality from Larry Ketcher, Chairman of the Council for Tribal Employment Rights.

When U.S. Rep. John Larson of Connecticut spoke at the convention, he lauded the Mohegan Tribe's philanthropic efforts for local communities and the state. He called the Mohegan Tribe and its casino "an irreplaceable partner in Connecticut."

"Not only are the Mohegans good neighbors, their value-added employment to the region, state and nation has been extraordinary," Rep. Larson said. The three-term member of Congress and a former president pro tempore of the state Senate, Rep. Larson is a member of the Congressional Native American Caucus.

Other speakers throughout the convention included Attorney Kaighn Smith, of the law firm Drummond, Woodson & MacMahon in

Portland, Maine; Ernie L. Stevens Jr., Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association; and Carrie Dominguez, Chair of the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Private Piestewa honored

A special presentation honored the late U.S. Army Private Lori Piestewa, who died last March during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Private Piestewa was the first Hopi woman and the first Native American woman to die in combat in the service of the United States. On behalf of her family, Hopi TERO Director Brant Honahi accepted a blanket and a certificate. He is from the same community as Private Piestewa and her family. The Unity of Nations drum group provided an honoring song.

At the closing ceremonies, the Mohegan Tribe received the Outstanding TERO Award along with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North Dakota. This award is given to tribes that continue to work to protect tribal employment rights. ✂

Important Find by Archaeological Field School



PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

Students in the Mohegan Archaeological Field School made an exciting discovery during the summer. They found evidence of a wooden post that was part of the western defensive wall, or palisade, of the 17th-century Mohegan fort at Shantok, Village of Uncas. They also found the trench in which the posts that formed the village's fortification were placed. At this important excavation site are field school instructor Dr. Jeffrey Bendremer, the Mohegan Historic Preservation Department's Archaeologist, front; and, from left, students Jamie Quinn, Ralph Clark and Carol Bemis; Archaeological Research Assistant Elaine Thomas; and student Lori Kessel.

College course explores Native American societies

The histories, lifestyles and traditions of Native American societies across North America will be examined in "Native Americans," a college course that will be taught on the Mohegan Reservation through December.

"This is a great opportunity to learn about the many fascinating and diverse Native American societies," said Dr. Jeffrey Bendremer, the Mohegan Historic Preservation Department's Archaeologist, who is the course instructor.

The three-credit course is offered through Eastern Connecticut State University's School of Continuing Education. Classes are held in the training classroom of the Mohegan Public Safety Complex next to the Mohegan Sun Eagleview Employee Center. ✂

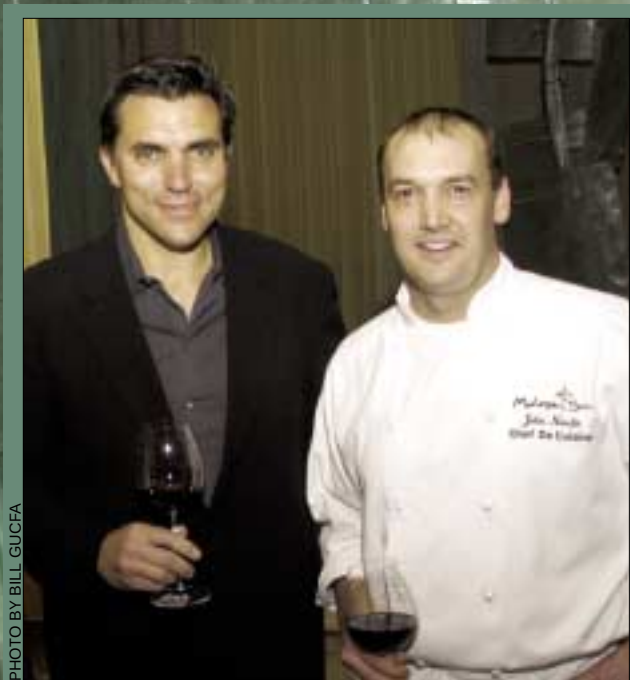


PHOTO BY BILL GUCCA

John Nordin, right, is the new Chef de Cuisine at Rain, Mohegan Sun's signature restaurant. He is a former protege of celebrity Chef Todd English, left.

Mohegan Sun welcomes John Nordin as the new Chef de Cuisine at Rain

John Nordin is the new Chef de Cuisine at Mohegan Sun's critically acclaimed restaurant Rain.

A former protege of celebrity Chef Todd English, Chef Nordin worked most recently as Chef de Cuisine of Todd English's Tuscany at Mohegan Sun. At Tuscany, Chef Nordin called upon his international experience to create authentic regional Italian cuisine with an accent on freshness and quality.

Prior to joining Mohegan Sun, Chef Nordin helped Chef English to open Olives New York in the W Hotel at Union Square. A graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., Chef Nordin completed an intensive two-year apprenticeship and worked "the line" alongside some of the country's modern-day masters, including David Burke, Mark Poidevan and John Jean Joho.

Nordin's culinary travel has included such landmark restaurants as Las Vegas' Le Cirque at the Bellagio Hotel and the Eiffel Tower Restaurant at the Paris Hotel as well as The River Cafe in Brooklyn, the Metropolitan Opera's Belmont Room, Tribeca Grill and Hotel Goldener Hirsch in Salzburg, Austria.

"Chef Nordin will build on Rain's success with

his own culinary expertise," said Mohegan Sun Executive Chef Michael Luboff. "We feel his strong experience in the international arena is great fit for Rain."

Rain's menu can best be described as a fusion of international flavors and features a five-course feast, which is available with wine pairings. Under Chef Nordin's culinary creativity, the new menu features such delights as mezzaluna of Swiss chard with roasted lobster and aromatic herb sauce; jasmine-ginger duck with napa cabbage slaw, carrot puree and cardamom jus; and chicken al mattone with white corn polenta, pea tendrill salad and blood orange sauce.

Mohegan Sun's signature restaurant, Rain features an elegant and inventive design by The Rockwell Group in which cascading water, polished metals, glass ceramic "puddles" and shimmering fabrics blend to create an intimate atmosphere akin to a Connecticut summer rain.

Rain's hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and on Sunday from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

If you love the nightlife, you must come to Mohegan After Dark

Mohegan Sun will never be the same after dark. The final piece of the resort's \$1.1-billion expansion opened in June when Mohegan After Dark came to life.

Owned and operated by The Lyons Group in Boston, Mohegan After Dark is a one-of-a-kind destination for nightlife entertainment in Connecticut. The \$8-million, 22,000-square-foot complex features three individually-themed lounges and nightclubs in one: Ultra 88 Dance Club, The Dubliner and Lucky's Lounge. Mohegan After Dark accommodates up to 800 people and is open daily.

"Mohegan After Dark has something for adults looking for a fun place to hang out — music, danc-



PHOTOS BY BILL GUCCA

ing, food and spirits," said Mitchell Etes, Mohegan Sun's Executive Vice President of Marketing.

The Ultra 88 Dance Club features a grand archway entrance with a plush red carpet runway surrounded by black marble. Highlights of the interior design are rich

mahogany tones and zebra prints encased in red velour drapery.

The focal point of the nightclub is a 420-square-foot dance floor where VIP seating abounds. The grand VIP suite offers guests the opportunity to close the plush red velvet drapes for privacy or the

sheer drapes to create a sense of mystery.

An authentic Irish pub, the Dubliner features rich colors, decorative metal-work and an impressive hand-carved sign that invites guests to experience a bit of Ireland. The pub accommodates 160 people for dinner feasts of traditional Irish fare, such as corned beef and cabbage and classic Irish beef stew. Live nightly entertainment features acoustic shows, comedy and rock bands.

Lucky's Lounge, which opened last August, is the East Coast's first Las Vegas-style restaurant and lounge. Its retro atmosphere is a throw-back to the era of fedora hats, fountain drinks and the Rat Pack. ✂



Gift for SIDS research

Mohegan Sun made a \$100,000 donation to charity at the second annual Mohegan Sun-Joseph Abboud Celebrity Tennis Classic at the Saw Mill Club in Mount Kisco, N.Y., last May. The gift benefits the CJ Foundation for SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), the special care nursery at Northern Westchester Hospital in New York and the Imus Ranch for Kids with Cancer in New Mexico. Joel Hollander, CJ Foundation Board Chairman, center, congratulates winners of the celebrity round-robin tournament, Alan Greenstein, Mohegan Sun's Vice President/Financial Comptroller, left, and Jonathan S. Hamilton, Editor of Tribal Publications.

‘Hot Doughnuts Now’ at three Krispy Kreme stores in Mohegan Sun

Krispy Kreme, maker of the world-famous “Hot Original Glazed Doughnut,” will open three stores at Mohegan Sun on Oct. 21.

The main store will be in 2,700 square feet of new retail space along the Riverview Garage connector to the Casino of the Earth, where patrons will have the opportunity to purchase Krispy Kreme doughnuts and watch them being made.

Two satellite stores — 600 square feet each — will open at the Riverview Garage entrance to the Sky Casino and along the Shops at Mohegan Sun corridor between Fleur de Lys and Yankee Candle.

Krispy Kreme is best known for its fresh, glazed, yeast-raised doughnuts, which stores announce to their customers with a unique glowing red “Hot Doughnuts Now” sign. The national doughnut retailer also makes more than a dozen other varieties of yeast-raised and cake doughnuts, real fruit pies, cinnamon buns and several varieties of snack foods.

“We are thrilled to have Krispy Kreme at Mohegan Sun,” said Bill Velardo, Mohegan Sun President and General Manager. “Our companies are very similar; we are both desti-



nations. Here, people will now be able to experience the best doughnuts and most spectacular gaming and entertainment in the world all under one roof.”

These Krispy Kreme locations will be owned and operated by the Jan Companies, one of the largest privately-owned restaurant operators in New England, employing over 2,500 people. The company owns and operates over 90 food outlets, including Burger Kings, Newport Creameries, Popeye Restaurants, Country Clubs and Krispy Kremes in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

An estimated 7.5 million Krispy Kreme doughnuts are made every day to sell at 265 stores in 37 states and Canada.

“We’re excited to be a part of Mohegan Sun,” said Jan Companies’ Vice President Janice Mathews. “This is another step in our plan to bring 16 new Krispy Kreme stores to New England over the next five years.”

Founded in 1937 in Winston-Salem, N.C., Krispy Kreme is the leading brand-name retailer of premium-quality doughnuts. Krispy Kreme currently operates more than 265 stores in 37 states and Canada. An estimated 7.5 million Krispy Kreme doughnuts are made every day and more than 2.7 billion are produced each year. ✂

Connecticut Sun exceeds expectations and earns berth in WNBA playoffs

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

The Connecticut Sun, owned by the Mohegan Tribe, finished its inaugural campaign in dramatic fashion, clinching a playoff berth on the last day of the regular season in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA).



Playing inspired basketball at the right time, the Connecticut Sun downed

the Charlotte Sting, 68-62 on Aug. 30 to sweep the first-round playoff series and advance to the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) Eastern Conference finals.

Seizing momentum by winning six of its last seven games, the Sun unfortunately ran into a bigger and faster Detroit Shock team in the conference finals.

Dropping game one 73-63, the Sun bounced back in Detroit leading the Shock by 4 with four minutes left. The Sun, however, was unable hold off the Shock’s comeback, losing 79-73 on Sept. 7 and was eliminated from the playoffs in a two-game sweep.



PHOTO BY BILL GUCCA

Mired in mediocrity for much of the season, the Sun, at times, displayed great shooting and tenacious defense. But it also suffered offensive lapses and mental breakdowns. Several stirring victories and heartbreaking losses epitomized the Sun’s inconsistent play during the regular season.

The team finished with a 10-7 home record, with one win coming at the Hartford Civic Center.

In the Mohegan Sun Arena, fans have shown their enthusiasm and exuberance for the team.

“The Arena is worth at least 10 points a night for the home team,” said Michael Cooper, Los Angeles Sparks Head Coach.

Connecticut Sun Guard Debbie Black splits the defense of Tamecka Dixon, left, and Nikki Teasley of Los Angeles during the first-half action of the season opener for both teams at Mohegan Sun Arena on May 24.

It’s a great atmosphere.”

A large part of the Sun fan base came out to see University of Connecticut legends Rebecca Lobo and Nykesha Sales perform for the team. Other visiting UConn alumna also drew throngs of fans, especially Swin Cash of Detroit, Jennifer Rizzotti of Cleveland, Sue Bird of Seattle and Asjha Jones of Washington.

Marketing the team aggressively will become a top priority for Sun personnel. Next year, for example, any fan who purchases two season tickets will receive a free night at the Mohegan Sun Hotel.

The Mohegan Tribe became the first Indian nation to own a professional sports franchise when it purchased the team, formerly the Orlando Miracle, last January. ✂

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